

Kentucky's initiatives at the state and local levels continue to draw national attention. The State Higher Education Executive Officers, in cooperation with the Council of Chief State School Officers, Achieve, Inc., and the National Association of System Heads invited representatives from Kentucky and 10 other states to participate in a workshop on "Improving the Effectiveness of P-16 Councils," held October 29-30 in Bolder, Colorado. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the conference addressed basic issues in forming a council, engaging leaders, garnering political support, identifying needs, setting key priorities, developing indices with which to measure progress and establish accountability, and sustaining momentum. The topics identified by the SHEEO organizers as the "substantive concerns related to the transitions within and between K-12 and higher education" reflect the core of Kentucky's P-16 agenda: early outreach, alignment of curriculum and assessments, college preparation, dual enrollment, remediation, transfer and articulation, financial aid, teacher quality, and longitudinal data systems (see Attachments A and B).

Most of the participants represented state-level councils but, because the workshop coincided with the Teacher Quality Summit, Kentucky was asked to send representatives from among its local councils. Ron Daley (Kentucky River Area P-16 Council), Alvin Moore (Purchase Area P-16 Council), and Gary Perkins (Central Kentucky Area P-16 Council and Southeast Area P-16 Council) represented Kentucky at this national gathering (see Attachment C). They will share their observations of Kentucky's progress and challenges at the state and local levels in view of this work with other states.

More recently, the Northern Kentucky Council of Partners in Education, together with the region's Vision 2015, held its first Education Summit, called "Champions for Education," November 14 during the area's annual Education Week activities. Participants included business and civic leaders, parents, and students, as well as educators. Kati Haycock, executive director of The Education Trust, gave the keynote address on the importance of setting high expectations for students to lead them to achievement. Dr. Barbara Stonewater, executive director of the Northern Kentucky Council of Partners in Education, will share her reflections on successful regional initiatives and how her community has united around a shared educational and economic vision.

Finally, in response to the evident need for funding incentives to support these and other initiatives to increase the successful transition of high school students and adult learners to postsecondary education and degree completion, the Council on Postsecondary Education has included key P-16 components in its 2008-10 expanded budget request to the 2008 Kentucky General Assembly, including:

- \$1.5 million each year of the biennium to support the work of local P-16 councils.
- \$1.45 million each year of the biennium to sustain and expand the nationally recognized pre-engineering curriculum, Project Lead the Way®, in Kentucky's school districts and to support the work of the University of Kentucky as a PLTW affiliate university.
- \$3 million each year of the biennium for a Traditional and Online Media Outreach targeting high school and GED graduates to enroll in college, adults with some college credit to complete an associate or bachelor's degree, and traditional high school students to major in STEM disciplines.